(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to monitor prices of decontrolled medicines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has also proposed to remove overall profitability on drug industry;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the drug industry increased the prices of price decontrolled medicines from 100 per cent to 500 per cent in the past;

(e) what system has been proposed to monitor the prices of price decontrolled medicines in the absence of no profitability limits, no expenditure control and no control on cost of production;

(f) whether it is a fact that without monitoring the cost of production and profits, monitoring of finished medicines is meaningless;

(g) whether it is also a fact that with the proposed measures prices of medicines will go up by 200 per cent; and

(h) if so, what is the objective of such price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The new Drugs Price Control Order has not yet been announced.

(d) The prices of some price decontrolled medicines have gone up in the past.

(e) and (f) In the new Drugs Price Control Order, there would be a stipulation that Government will have the right to bring within the ambit of control any drug in the decontrolled category at any point of time, should it be considered necessary to do so.

(g) No, Sir. No precise estimates of future prices of medicines can be given at this stage.

(h) Does not arise.

Categorisation of drugs in New DPCO

1007. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed to introduce two categories under the New Drugs Price Control Order instead of three at present;

(b) what is the total number of drugs under the present price control order, separately under each of the three categories;

(c) what is the number of drugs identified under each of the two proposed categories of the New-Drugs Price Control Order alongwith the names of the drugs;

(d) what are the detailed criteria on which each of these two lists have been formulated; and

(e) what are the names of the authorities and committees to whom the task to draw these lists has been assigned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of Category I and II bulk drugs are given in the First Schedule and those of category III drugs in the Second Schedule to the DPCO, 1979 as amended from time to time, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The names of drugs to be included in the proposed Category I and II have not been announced by the Government.

(e) The drugs required by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for National Health Programme will form proposed Category I. An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, BICP to draw up the list of drugs to be included in Category II.